

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

S E C R E T STATE 119035

EXDIS - BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: MPOL, ;ATO, DA, GL

SUBJECT: HOME RULE FOR GREENLAND -- U.S. INTERESTS

1. IMPENDING GRANTING OF HOME RULE TO GREENLAND BY DENMARK
WAS SUBJECT AT MAY 3 EUR/NE NORDIC INTERAGENCY MEETING.
DISCUSSION WAS PROMPTED BY APRIL 27 DANISH EMBASSY SEMINAR
FOR INTERESTED WASHINGTON AGENCIES WITH DR. ISI FOIGHHEL,

CHAIRMAN OF DANISH GOVERNMENT COMMISSION ON HOME RULE FOR
GREENLAND. WE WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY VIEWS ON FOLLOWING
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REPORT OF THESE MEETINGS, IN PARTICULAR ON LONG TERM GREEN-
LAND ATTITUD-S TOWARDS U.S.-GREENLAND RELATIONSHIP
PRESENTLY FUNCTIONING UNDER DANISH AEGIS.

2. ON APRIL 27, FOIGHHEL BRIEFED PARTICIPANTS AND ANSWERED
QUESTIONS ON COMMISSION REPORT WHICH WAS SHORTLY TO BE
SUBMITTED TO DANISH PARLIAMENT. ADOPTION BY PARLIAMENT

WAS EXPECTED AT END OF 1978 FOLLOWED BY A REFERENDUM IN GREENLAND IN EARLY 1979. IF GREENLANDERS APPROVED, HOME RULE WOULD TAKE EFFECT MAY 1979.

3. FOIGHEL INDICATED THAT HOME RULE WOULD MEAN:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL AND FISHERIES ISSUES WOULD BE TAKEN OVER BY GREENLANDERS.

B. COMMERCIAL RESOURCE EXPLOITATION WOULD BE DECIDED BY GREENLAND, NOT BY COPENHAGEN.

C. MORATORIUM ON DANISH RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

D. BUDGETING OF THE 200 MILLION DOLLARS SUBSIDY FROM COPENHAGEN WOULD BE DECIDED BY A NEW GREENLAND ASSEMBLY.

E. COPENHAGEN WOULD RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

FOIGHEL MAINTAINED THAT ,RESENT GREENLAND-NATO RELATIONSHIP "COULD NOT BE A QUESTION"; IN FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO MENTION OF AMERICAN BASES, OR AMERICAN PRESENCE IN GENERAL, IN COMMISSION DISCUSSION.

4. FOIGHEL SAID THAT THE HOME RULE COMMISSION HAD BEEN SECRET

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INSTITUTED WHEN COPENHAGEN FINALLY ACKNOWLEDGED GREENLAND DESIRE TO HAVE A SAY OVER THEIR CULTURAL, COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS. IT HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY MOTIVATED BY DANISH ENTRY INTO THE EC WHICH A MAJORITY OF GREENLANDERS OPPOSED IN THE REFERENDUM. THIS MOVE WAS THE FIRST TIME A DANISH GOVERNMENT HAD ACTED AGAINST EXPRESSED GREENLAND WISHES SINCE GREENLAND HAD BECOME A DANISH PROVINCE AND A PROVINCIAL COUNCIL SET UP. THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE UNDER WHICH THE COMMISSION OPERATED WAS THAT HOME RULE SHOULD BE WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF NATIONAL UNITY; I.E., THE DANISH CONSTITUTION WOULD STILL APPLY IN THAT THE DANISH PARLIAMENT WOULD BE DELEGATING CERTAIN AUTHORITY TO THE GREENLANDERS. FOIGHEL INSISTED THAT THERE WAS NO "PRESENT" GREENLAND DESIRE TO BECOME INDEPENDENT OF DENMARK; RATHER ONLY TO CREATE A NATIONAL IDENTITY. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT "GREENLAND'S FUTURE WAS UNKNOWN." THE HOPE IN COPENHAGEN WAS THAT THE DANISH RELATIONSHIP WITH GREENLAND WOULD EVOLVE ALONG THE LINES OF THAT WITH THE FAEROES.

5. FOIGHEL NOTED THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH GREENLAND IF IT DESIRED TO REMOVE ITSELF

FROM THE EC. HE RECALLED THAT THE FAEROES ARE NOT PART OF THE EC. ANOTHER ISSUE WAS RESIDENCE IN GREENLAND SINCE THE EC DOES NOT PERMIT DISCRIMINATION. SINCE GREENLANDERS ARE DANISH CITIZENS, THEY MAY RESIDE ANYWHERE IN DENMARK; FOIGHEL EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT GREENLAND WOULD DISCRIMINATE AT HOME TO ALLEVIATE THE COMMON LDC PROBLEM OF NATIVE INDUSTRY CONTROLLED BY OUTSIDERS.

L. AS TO EXPLOITATION OF RESOURCES, FOIGHEL SAID THAT QUESTION OF OWNERSHIP WAS AVOIDED; LAND IN GREENLAND, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS PRESENTLY "PUBLIC". THE COMMISSION DISCUSSED INSTEAD HOW EXPLOITATION DECISIONS WOULD BE MADE AND HOW PROFITS WOULD BE DIVIDED. IN PART, THE QUESTION MAY BE MOOT SINCE PRESENTLY NO OIL IS BELIEVED
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TO BE OFF GREENLAND AND URANIUM EXPLOITATION WILL BE DIFFICULT. IN ADDITION THERE ARE SHARP DIVISIONS BETWEEN GREENLANDERS FOR RESOURCE EXPLOITATION AND THOSE CONCERNED ABOUT DIFFICULTIES SUCH WOULD CAUSE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. A JOINT DENMARK-GREENLAND ADVISORY BOARD AND INDEPENDENT GREENLAND RESOURCE ADMINISTRATION ARE TO BE ESTABLISHED.

7. AMONG THE PROBLEMS TO BE HANDLED BY THESE GROUPS IS AN AGREEMENT THAT COPENHAGEN CANNOT INITIATE EXPLOITATION WITHOUT GREENLAND CONSENT, BUT THAT GREENLAND CANNOT GIVE CONCESSIONS TO OTHERS WITHOUT COPENHAGEN APPROVAL. THE OTHER MAJOR ISSUE WILL BE THE PRESENT 200 MILLION DOLLAR COPENHAGEN SUBSIDY. AS THE GREENLAND TAX BASE IS LIMITED, THIS SUBSIDY WILL CONTINUE - ALTHOUGH THE GREENLANDERS THEMSELVES WILL NOW DECIDE ITS BUDGETING - UNTIL IT CAN BE PHASED OUT AT THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCE REVENUES. HOWEVER, ONCE THESE REVENUES HAVE COMPLETELY SUPERSEDED, AND BEGIN TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF THE SUBSIDY, THERE WILL BE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TO CONSIDER THE ALLOCATION OF THESE ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

8. GREENLANDERS WILL ALSO CREATE COOPERATIVES, NOT A NEW MONOPOLY, TO REPLACE THE ROYAL DANISH TRADING COMPANY WHICH PRESENTLY BUYS AND RESELLS GREENLAND PRODUCTS. FOIGHEL EXPECTED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH OPERATIONS PRESENTLY OPERATED FROM COPENHAGEN WOULD HAVE TO ACCEPT A MORATORIUM UNTIL POTENTIAL GREENLAND INVOLVEMENT COULD BE DEVELOPED.

9. ON THE POLITICAL SIDE, FOIGHEL FREQUENTLY REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT GREENLAND'S FEELING OF SOLIDARITY TOWARDS DENMARK WAS HIGH; HE WAS, HOWEVER, NOT SURE WHETHER SUCH WAS RECIPROCAL. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE TWO GREENLAND POLITICAL PARTIES, ONE ASSOCIATED WITH THE DANISH SOCIAL
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DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND THE OTHER WITH THE SOCIALIST PEOPLES'; THERE WAS ALSO A "HALF" PARTY WHICH WAS MARXIST. IN ADDITION, GREENLAND ESKIMOS WERE DEVELOPING TIES WITH THEIR CANADIAN COUSINS, AND THERE WAS SOME TALK OF A CROSS-NATIONAL ESKIMO POLITICAL ORGANIZATION. FOIGHEL ALSO

FELT IT WOULD BE VALUABLE FOR COPENHAGEN THAT GREENLAND POLITICIANS WOULD FOR THE FIRST TIME HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR ACTIONS OR THEIR STATEMENTS.

10. GENERAL CONSENSUS OF MAY 3 INTERAGENCY MEETING WAS DANES MAY BE OVERLY SANGUINE CONCERNING GREENLAND TIES TO COPENHAGEN, AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR POSSIBILITY OF DEMANDS FOR GREATER AUTONOMY IN THE FUTURE, OR EVEN INDEPENDENCE. WE WOULD FURTHER EXPECT DENMARK TO ACQUIRE IN SUCH AN EVENT. U.S. INTERESTS WERE TENTATIVELY SEEN AS FOLLOWING:

A. U.S. PRESENCE IN OR OFF GREENLAND:

1) BMEWS SITE AT THULE- ONE OF THREE AND, AS THE MIDDLE SITE, THE KEY ONE.

2) DEW LINE FACILITIES.

3) ALTERNATIVE AIR STAGING BASES.

4) CONTROL OF SURFACE AND UNDERWATER ACCESS ROUTES OFF GREENLAND; IN PARTICULAR, DAVIS STRAIT ABOUT WHICH CANADIANS HAVE ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN.

B. DENIAL OF GREENLAND FACILITIES TO SOVIETS.

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